

captioned, "Red Cross to make money from its blood", as reported in the Pioneer dated 14th July, 2000;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Red Cross Society has decided to sell blood from its banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether gross irregularities in the distribution of blood by IRCS have come to the notice of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to streamline the functioning of IRCS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Indian Red Cross Society has not decided to sell blood from its blood bank. The blood is collected by IRCS on voluntary and replacement basis and there is no charge for the blood. However before a safe blood unit is issued to the patient, a number of tests and processes have to be carried out. The IRCS in the first instance, proposes to levy a service charge of Rs. 350/- on this account only from private hospitals and nursing homes.

There is no irregularity in the distribution of blood by IRCS.

(d) Does not arise.

UNAIDS Global Report on HIV/AIDS

2846. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent UNAIDS Global report on HIV/ AIDS Epidemic 2000, saying that 3.1 lakh people had died of AIDS in India in 1999;

(b) if so, how far the report agrees with Government's official figures in this regard;

(c) the Government's reaction thereto, indicating the steps taken to effectively curtail and control the ghastly disease;

(d) whether it is a fact that Tamil Nadu has succeeded in controlling AIDS; and

(e) if so, whether the Ministry would study Tamil Nadu Government's efforts to help other States in preventing and controlling AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) While the estimates of HIV infections are on the basis of surveillance reports undertaken annually by Government, the number of deaths quoted in the report are mere projections. Government, therefore, does not agree with the UNAIDS report on number of deaths. For the control of the disease, Government has taken the following steps:

- (i) Reducing the spread of HIV in groups at high risk by identification of target populations and providing peer counselling, condom promotion, treatment of sexually transmitted infections.
- (ii) Preventive intervention for the general population by Information, Education and Communication (IEC) and awareness campaign, provision of voluntary testing and counselling, safe blood transfusion services and prevention of occupational exposure.
- (iii) Providing financial assistance for opportunistic infections, home and community based care to people living with HIV/AIDS.
- (iv) Strengthening effectiveness and technical, managerial, financial sustainability at National, State and Municipal levels.
- (v) Promoting collaboration amongst public, private and voluntary sectors.

(d) and (e) Even though the sentinel surveillance data of 1998 and 1999 reveals that there is no increase in HIV prevalence rates in the State of Tamil Nadu, it cannot be concluded without further observation that Tamil Nadu has succeeded in controlling AIDS. Based on Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society Model, the programme is being implemented in other States for expediting flow of funds and implementation of programme components.